Distribution of unauthorised empty cylinders by manufacturers

100. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the reports that certain manufacturers of LPG cylinders are distributing unauthorized empty cylinders among the public and LPG is refilled into those cylinders and being sold regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are procuring cylinders from the approved cylinder manufacturers having valid statutory licences. Further, Oil Industry technical teams make surprise visit to the enlisted suppliers to check manufacturing activity/quality as per the Indian Standard specifications and in case technical deficiencies are observed during the visit, the placement of orders on such units is suspended by industry. Regular surprise checks and inspections of the LPG distributors are also conducted to ensure that LPG is not supplied through un-authorised refilled cylinders in the market.

LPG agencies in the country

101. PROF. M.M. AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies functioning in the different parts of the country particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 31st May, 2000;

(b) whether these outlets are not sufficient in proportion to the increasing population of the country; and

(c) if not, the details of proposals formulated by Government to set up more LPG agencies in the country during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.4.2000, there were 6161 LPG distributorships in operation in the country, of which 738 are in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In order to meet the increased demand of LPG, in addition to the locations pending selection from the previous Marketing Plans, 2078 locations have been included in the 1996-98 Marketing Plan.